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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

Application No.: 09/988,954

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: P. Prebilio

For: TISSUE STABILIZATION METHOD (as amended)

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JUL 03 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT – FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Introductory Comments**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet. Claims 62, 63, 67, 69-71, 76 and 96 remain in this application and are submitted for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicant has added new claims 103-106. Applicant believes these amendments serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.